

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Work Session

MINUTES

April 27, 2015

Vice President Dominique called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the board room of the FNSBSD Administrative Center at 520 Fifth Avenue. The work session was called to discuss the district's 2015-16 budget, including an update from on education funding and legislation from the district lobbyist.

Vice President Dominique read the district's mission statement: *"Our mission is to provide an excellent and equitable education in a safe, supportive environment so all students can become productive members of a diverse and changing society."*

Present:

Wendy Dominique, Vice President
Allyson Lambert, Treasurer
Lisa Gentry, Clerk
Sue Hull, Member
Michael O'Brien, Member
Sean Rice, Member

Absent:

Heidi Haas, President

Staff Present:

Dr. Karen Gaborik, Superintendent
Lisa Pearce, Chief Financial Officer
Sandra Kowalski, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Instruction
Shaun Kraska, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction
Traci Gatewood, Executive Director of Human Resources
Janet Cobb, Executive Director of Technology
Peggy Carlson, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Dave Norum, Executive Director of Facilities Management
Johanna Carson, Director of Community and Public Relations
Elizabeth Schaffhauser, Director of Employment and Educational Opportunity
Katie Sanders, Director of Library Media Services
Melanie Hadaway, Acting Director of Alternative Instruction
Sharon Tuttle, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education

Others:

John Ringstad, District Lobbyist

2015-16 Budget [0:00:42]

John Ringstad, district lobbyist, updated the board on recent legislative action. Both the House and Senate had adopted the Conference Committee substitute for HB 72 - Operating Budget. He noted the legislature had not yet adjourned, so anything was possible, although he had heard the agreement was pretty solid and thought the budget number was pretty firm.

Mrs. Lambert arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Mr. Ringstad spoke to education bills including legislation on Erin's policy, parental rights, rehiring retired teachers and administrators, and unfunded mandates. Last year the legislature requested some education studies for next session. The process had begun and would be preceding over the next few months.

2015-16 Budget (continued) [0:10:05]

Lisa Pearce, CFO, stated if the education budget held, it would mean an approximate shortfall of an additional \$1,706,629 from the district's Recommended Budget which the board previously approved and submitted to the borough. There were limited options – the board could wait to see what additional revenue the borough provided or make additional budget reductions. The district had presented a balanced budget to the assembly in April and there would not be any additional budget presentations by the district to the borough. The borough would be considering education funding during their May budget meetings.

Superintendent Dr. Gaborik thought the assembly was very amenable to assisting the district, but exactly what the borough would or would not provide would not be known until the borough adopted their budget in mid-May. If the board intended to make additional staff reductions or increase class size, the administration would need to know the board's direction during the meeting.

BOARD QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

The board carefully considered the various staff notification deadlines; other limited staff and program reduction options – including the board's priority not to increase class size; the pros and cons of providing direction on additional reductions; the uncertainty of borough funding – including the ask for additional revenue and lapse funding; the possibility of a salary freeze; reconvening at a later date to further consider options; and Dr. Gaborik's feeling the assembly was amenable to assisting the district. Upon conclusion of board member and the administration's discussions, the board reached consensus to make no additional budget reductions at the current time and to wait until the district's funding from the state and borough was finalized.

The board clarified and reiterated its original request of \$7 million in additional revenue from the borough to help restore cuts and reductions in the Recommended Budget. Board members were hopeful the assembly would provide the full \$7 million.

Board Comments/Announcements

Board members and the administration reminded everyone and encouraged them to attend the May 7 borough assembly meeting in support of education funding.

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by Sharon Tuttle, executive assistant to the Board of Education